WISCONSIN'S ICE SPORTFISHING EFFORT AND HARVEST FROM GREEN BAY

The Wisconsin DNR's ice creel survey runs from approximately Jan. 1 - March 31 each year, depending on ice conditions.

Table 1. Estimated total angler effort (hours) in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January through March, 2014-2021. Standard deviations are in Italics.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	80,792	99,482	94,562	85,409	97,477	65,500	97,557	88,109
	8,954	19,026	9,869	11,014	10,540	10,349	3,269	12,835
February	101,870	88,872	129,972	137,566	107,351	87,197	117,799	144,516
	15,530	22,189	18,498	25,724	9,342	19,416	19,545	9,013
March	101,152	93,051	24,818	3,593	101,001	93,228	68,679	97,378
	19,547	3,558	11,896	0	10,815	37,069	8,520	25,649
Total Effort	283,814	281,405	249,352	226,568	305,829	245,925	284,035	330,003
	26,522	29,445	24,106	27,983	17,757	43,107	21,570	30,064

Table 2. Estimated total harvest (numbers) in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January through March, 2014-2021. Standard deviations are in Italics.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lake Whitefish	117,241	158,064	129,886	140,255	151,827	58,515	77,714	56,911
	17,767	20,121	19,629	25,696	21,885	15,511	10,900	10,521
Brown Trout	0	71	0	0	0	49	39	0
	0	71	0	0	0	49	39	0
Rainbow Smelt	0	0	0	5,117	14,180	115	0	271
	0	0	0	5,117	12,160	115	0	167
Northern Pike	192	82	0	113	1,421	1,408	700	2,182
	75	82	0	113	424	428	286	953
Yellow Perch	19,139	6,058	4,711	16,294	35,966	25,844	19,760	172,572
	5,290	1,215	2,318	5,064	9,750	3,138	6,559	24,636
Walleye	696	0	474	279	4,505	1,843	1,345	2,355
	306	0	341	246	1,420	842	310	1,141
Total Harvest	137,268	164,275	135,071	162,058	207,899	87,774	99,558	234,291
	18,540	20,158	19,768	26,687	26,909	15,854	12,728	26,830

Table 3. Estimated total catch (numbers) in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January through March, 2014-2021. Standard deviations are in Italics.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lake Whitefish	127,783	159,223	147,988	166,594	174,220	70,164	82,278	59,874
	18,593	20,225	22,189	26,191	25,258	17,037	11,142	11,107
Brown Trout	0	71	0	0	0	49	39	0
	0	71	0	0	0	49	39	0
Rainbow Smelt	0	0	0	7,385	14,551	265	0	271
	0	0	0	5,349	12,154	189	0	167
Northern Pike	1,168	82	75	113	3,039	2,827	1,008	2,477
	655	82	<i>7</i> 5	113	619	927	347	968
Yellow Perch	29,992	12,786	27,772	45,341	79,248	50,704	59,087	316,803
	7,859	2,755	8,685	11,455	12,029	7,916	23,787	54,245
Walleye	1,706	3,011	3,290	1,221	23,010	11,280	17,811	5,449
	560	297	2,029	723	5,060	2,459	7,426	3,351
Total Catch	160,649	175,102	179,125	220,654	294,068	135,240	160,223	384,874
	20,204	20,414	23,915	29,092	30,925	18,970	27,299	55,480

Table 4. Estimated harvest and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March, 2014. Standard deviations are in Italics.

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEASON
Lake Whitefish	35,008	40,486	41,747	117,241
	10,465	7,949	11,958	17,767
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Rainbow Smelt	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Northern Pike	0	93	99	192
	0	0	75	<i>7</i> 5
Yellow Perch	6,185	6,668	6,286	19,139
	3,699	2,504	2,834	5,290
Walleye	207	193	296	696
	144	137	233	306
Total Harvest	41,400	47,440	48,428	137,268
	11,100	8,335	12,292	18,540
Angler Hours	80,792	101,870	101,152	283,814
	8,954	15,530	19,547	26,522

Table 5. Estimated catch and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2014. Standard deviations are in Italics.

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEASON
Lake Whitefish	38,017	46,169	43,597	127,783
	11,427	8,095	12,232	18,593
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Rainbow Smelt	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Northern Pike	312	93	763	1,168
	312	0	576	655
Yellow Perch	13,393	10,019	6,580	29,992
	6,216	3,860	2,868	7,859
Walleye	549	631	526	1,706
	269	394	294	560
Total Catch	52,271	56,912	51,466	160,649
	13,015	8,977	12,580	20,204
Angler Hours	80,792	101,870	101,152	283,814
	8,954	15,530	19,547	26,522

Table 6. Estimated harvest and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2015. Standard deviations are in Italics.

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEASON
Lake Whitefish	38,269	63,995	55,800	158,064
	10,077	17,186	2,823	20,121
Brown Trout	71	0	0	71
	71	0	0	71
Rainbow Smelt	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Northern Pike	82	0	0	82
	82	0	0	82
Yellow Perch	2,636	873	2,549	6,058
	1,155	377	0	1,215
Walleye	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Total Harvest	41,058	64,868	58,349	164,275
	10,144	17,190	2,823	20,158
Angler Hours	99,482	88,872	93,051	281,405
	19,026	22,189	3,558	29,445

Table 7. Estimated catch and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2015. Standard deviations are in Italics.

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEASON
Lake Whitefish	38,891	64,532	55,800	159,223
	10,226	17,220	2,823	20,225
Brown Trout	71	0	0	71
	71	0	0	71
Rainbow Smelt	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Northern Pike	82	0	0	82
	82	0	0	82
Yellow Perch	6,501	873	5,412	12,786
	2,711	377	314	2,755
Walleye	471	702	1,838	3,011
	279	0	101	297
Total Catch	46,016	66,107	63,050	175,173
	10,583	17,224	2,842	20,414
Angler Hours	99,482	88,872	93,051	281,405
	19,026	22,189	3,558	29,445

Table 8. Estimated harvest and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2016. Standard deviations are in Italics.

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEASON
Lake Whitefish	37,252	73,912	18,722	129,886
	8,806	15,323	8,541	19,629
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Rainbow Smelt	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Northern Pike	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Yellow Perch	995	1,017	2,699	4,711
	596	479	2,188	2,318
Walleye	282	0	192	474
	282	0	191	341
Total Harvest	38,529	74,929	21,613	135,071
	8,831	15,330	8,819	19,768
Angler Hours	94,562	129,972	24,818	249,352
	9,869	18,498	11,896	24,106

Table 9. Estimated catch and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2016. Standard deviations are in Italics.

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEASON
Lake Whitefish	39,193	75,997	32,798	147,988
	8,955	15,269	13,379	22,189
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Rainbow Smelt	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Northern Pike	0	75	0	75
	0	75	0	75
Yellow Perch	8 , 157	10,505	9,110	27,772
	4,673	5,413	4,929	8,685
Walleye	2,425	482	383	3,290
	1,946	481	312	2,029
Total Catch	49,775	87,059	42,291	179,125
	10,287	16,207	14,261	23,915
Angler Hours	94,562	129,972	24,818	249,352
	9,869	18,498	11,896	24,106

Table 10. Estimated harvest and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2017. Standard deviations are in Italics.

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEASON
Lake Whitefish	50,680	89,575	0	140,255
	14,968	20,886	0	25,696
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Rainbow Smelt	5,117	0	0	5,117
	5,117	0	0	5,117
Northern Pike	0	113	0	113
	0	113	0	113
Yellow Perch	10,172	6,122	0	16,294
	3,768	3,383	0	5,064
Walleye	279	0	0	279
	246	0	0	246
Total Harvest	66,248	95,810	0	162,058
	16,263	21,159	0	26,687
Angler Hours	85,409	137,566	3,593	226,568
	11,014	25,724	0	27,983

Table 11. Estimated catch and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2017. Standard deviations are in Italics.

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEASON
Lake Whitefish	65,822	100,772	0	166,594
	15,445	21,152	0	26,191
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Rainbow Smelt	5,725	1,660	0	7,385
	5,143	1,471	0	5,349
Northern Pike	0	113	0	113
	0	113	0	113
Yellow Perch	26,508	18,833	0	45,341
	7,786	8,402	0	11,455
Walleye	1,221	0	0	1,221
	723	0	0	723
Total Catch	99,276	121,378	0	220,654
	18,059	22,807	0	29,092
Angler Hours	85,409	137,566	3,593	226,568
	11,014	25,724	0	27,983

Table 12. Estimated harvest and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2018. Standard deviations are in Italics.

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEASON
Lake Whitefish	40,663	78,147	33,017	151,827
	9,428	16,392	11,017	21,885
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Rainbow Smelt	2,225	0	11,955	14,180
	2,225	0	11,955	12,160
Northern Pike	256	144	1,021	1,421
	0	87	415	424
Yellow Perch	26,797	5,271	3,898	35,966
	9,343	2,477	1,280	9,750
Walleye	1,794	1,095	1,616	4,505
	1,025	711	679	1,420
Total Harvest	71,735	84,657	51,507	207,899
	13,497	16,594	16,327	26,909
Angler Hours	97,477	107,351	101,001	305,829
	10,540	9,342	10,815	17,758

Table 13. Estimated catch and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2018. Standard deviations are in Italics.

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEASON
Lake Whitefish	50,661	84,298	39,261	174,220
	11,702	19,127	11,628	25,258
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Rainbow Smelt	2,596	0	11,955	14,551
	2,191	0	11,955	12,154
Northern Pike	717	266	2,056	3,039
	77	155	594	619
Yellow Perch	54,67 3	11,087	13,488	79,248
	9,651	4,002	5,961	12,029
Walleye	3,633	3,444	15,933	23,010
	1,451	2,666	4,048	5,060
Total Catch	112,280	99,095	82,693	294,068
	15,394	19,723	18,177	30,925
Angler Hours	97,477	107,351	101,001	305,829
	10,540	9,342	10,815	17,758

Table 14. Estimated harvest and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2019. Standard deviations are in Italics.

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEASON
Lake Whitefish	12,102	30,827	15,586	58,515
	5,806	11,101	9,146	15,511
Brown Trout	0	0	49	49
	0	0	49	49
Rainbow Smelt	115	0	0	115
	115	0	0	115
Northern Pike	247	414	747	1,408
	149	233	327	428
Yellow Perch	21,406	2,536	1,902	25,844
	2,726	1,136	1,062	3,138
Walleye	1,005	340	498	1,843
	725	192	382	842
Total Harvest	34,875	34,117	18,782	87,774
	6,458	11,163	9,221	15,854
Angler Hours	65,500	87,197	93,228	245,925
	10,349	19,416	37,069	43,107

Table 15. Estimated catch and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2019. Standard deviations are in Italics.

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEASON
Lake Whitefish	12,565	39,912	17,687	70,164
	5,797	13,143	9,161	17,037
Brown Trout	0	0	49	49
	0	0	49	49
Rainbow Smelt	249	0	16	265
	189	0	16	189
Northern Pike	870	720	1,237	2,827
	548	492	563	927
Yellow Perch	36,425	9,228	5,051	50,704
	6,631	3,591	2,408	7,916
Walleye	1,512	1, 570	8,198	11,280
	780	628	2,246	2,459
Total Catch	51,621	51,430	32,238	135,289
	8,861	13,648	9,751	18,970
Angler Hours	65,500	87,197	93,228	245,925
	10,349	19,416	37,069	43,107

Table 16. Estimated harvest and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2020. Standard deviations are in Italics.

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEASON
Lake Whitefish	21,259	34,005	22,450	77,714
	1,309	8,914	6,136	10,900
Brown Trout	0	39	0	39
	0	0	0	39
Rainbow Smelt	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Northern Pike	141	0	559	700
	94	0	270	286
Yellow Perch	8,822	8,781	2,157	19,760
	5,279	3,651	1,353	6,559
Walleye	909	436	0	1,345
	0	310	0	310
Total Harvest	31,131	43,261	25,166	99,558
	5,440	9,638	6,289	12,728
Angler Hours	97,557	117,799	68,679	284,035
	3,269	19,545	8,520	21,570

Table 17. Estimated catch and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2020. Standard deviations are in Italics.

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEASON
Lake Whitefish	22,024	36,978	23,276	82,278
	1,309	9,158	6,210	11,142
Brown Trout	0	39	0	39
	0	39	0	39
Rainbow Smelt	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Northern Pike	246	118	644	1,008
	182	85	283	347
Yellow Perch	28,750	22,052	8,285	59,087
	21,981	7,051	5,740	23,787
Walleye	1,454	715	15,642	17,811
	0	365	7,417	7,426
Total Harvest	52,474	59,902	47,847	160,223
	22,021	11,564	11,252	27,299
Angler Hours	97,557	117,799	68,679	284,035
	3,269	19,545	8,520	21,570

Table 18. Estimated harvest and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2021. Standard deviations are in Italics.

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEASON
Lake Whitefish	12,905	30,582	13,424	56,911
	3,814	8,402	5,054	10,521
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Rainbow Smelt	0	271	0	271
	0	167	0	167
Northern Pike	725	176	1,281	2,182
	259	127	908	953
Yellow Perch	12,476	71,621	88,475	172,572
	3,797	14,488	19,561	24,636
Walleye	96	1,584	675	2,355
	74	1,139	0	1,141
Total Harvest	26,202	104,234	103,855	234,291
	5,389	16,788	20,224	26,830
Angler Hours	88,109	144,516	97,378	330,003
	12,835	9,013	25,649	30,064

Table 19. Estimated catch and effort in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March 2021. Standard deviations are in Italics.

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	SEASON
Lake Whitefish	12,905	32,632	14,337	59,874
	3,814	9,125	5,054	11,107
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0
Rainbow Smelt	0	271	0	271
	0	167	0	167
Northern Pike	725	176	1,576	2,477
	259	127	924	968
Yellow Perch	24,578	124,818	167,407	316,803
	7,190	24,851	47,679	54,245
Walleye	437	4,337	675	5,449
	347	3,333	0	3,351
Total Harvest	38,645	162,234	183,995	384,874
	8,150	26,683	47,955	55,480
Angler Hours	88,109	144,516	97,378	330,003
	12,835	9,013	25,649	30,064

Table 20. Estimated harvest for lake whitefish from sport anglers and from guided fishing trips in Wisconsin waters of Green Bay during January - March, 2017 - 2021.

Note: The guide harvest is one component of the overall creel harvest.

YEAR	CREEL HARVEST	GUIDE HARVEST
2017	140,255	27,557
2018	151,827	46,791
2019	58,515	21,237
2020	77,714	25,000
2021	56,911	14,690